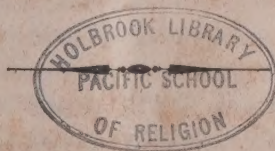


THE
AMERICAN AND FOREIGN

Christian Union.

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"THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINETH US."  
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VOLUME V.
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1854.



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V.5
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INTRODUCTION.

The present Volume contains a record of the general movements of the Churches of our country, and other Protestant lands, in relation to the Papal world during the year 1854. In regard to the operations of THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION, whose organ it is, it contains ample details; whilst it also embraces much intelligence respecting the efforts of other societies and organizations, both at home and abroad, which are engaged in the same good work. Nor have we been inattentive to the proceedings of Rome in all parts of the world.

The year 1854 has been a very interesting one, as this Volume will show, as it respects conflicts and struggles with Rome. Never has she made greater efforts in our country than during the last year. In that year she completed her machinery, by the formation of "Provincial Councils," each under the presidency and direction of an Archbishop, of whom she now has no less than seven among us. On the other hand, never have the presumption and arrogance of her Hierarchy and her Press been more signally rebuked. Monsignor Bedini, the semi-papal Nuncio, left the country amid the hisses and the scorn of a large portion of the people. Two or three of the most violent of the papal presses have been compelled to cease. And a powerful political party has been called into existence by the insolence of her partizans and the truckling meanness of the demagogues.

Abroad, Rome employs every art to sustain herself. With the view of crippling the growing power and influence of a Schismatical Church, she has been well pleased to see Roman Catholic France united, for a while, with Protestant England. It will not be long,

perhaps, till she will rejoice to see the same France united with Austria (and England too, if possible,) to humble and destroy Prussia. Nor would she, *perhaps*, be sorry to see such a coalition formed against these United States! Time will show how this will be.

Thanks be to God, the Protestants of a living faith in Great Britain and Ireland, France, Switzerland, Italy and other countries in Europe—as well as in these United States and Canada—are every year becoming more attentive to the “signs of the times,” and arming themselves for the conflict with Rome: a spiritual and powerful conflict, in which the victory cannot be uncertain.

The present Volume, including the Supplement to the February number, contains much that relates to the great subject of Liberty of Conscience and of Worship for our fellow-citizens when residing or sojourning in foreign lands. That question has not been agitated by the Society in vain. Other great questions will come up during the year on which we are about to enter, and of which the VIth Volume will contain the record. May God direct us all in the path of duty, and crown our humble and imperfect labors for the salvation of men and the promotion of His glory with His all-sustaining benediction.

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